

NOTES ON EDUCATION.

It is a striking fact that in all the European States the expenditure for war is vastly greater than that for education. In France the proportion is about 15 to 1; in England, 6 to 1; in Prussia, 4 to 1; in Russia, 50 to 1; in Denmark, 2 to 1. In Switzerland alone almost as much is spent for education as for war.

A committee has been appointed in Baltimore to take into consideration the practicability of establishing a technical school in that city. Mr. J. B. Wentz has just presented to this committee a plan by which such instruction may be given. His sketch is somewhat long, but one passage will give an idea of it. "I consider necessary," he says, "an ordinary schoolroom and a skilled workman in wood, a carver or pattern-maker for instance, who has at least a plain English education and is quiet in his manner and manly in his bearing. The room can be found in some of the higher City College or in some school near by. The carver or pattern-maker can be obtained in our midst for about \$800 a year. The pupils should come from the first-year boys of the University College at the rate of twelve per day, say five from each class if there are four first-year classes, or more if there are fewer classes than four. This would make the rate of 100 boys a week, and would give each boy at least one day every two weeks, as the college is at present constituted."

The New-Haven *Palladian* devotes more than a column of its space to a discussion of the question whether the public schools should be closed to allow the pupils to see a circus or attend the performance, and decides that they should not be closed. The last paragraph of the article is the most important, being an announcement that kindergarten schools are about to be established in New-Haven.

The library of Johns Hopkins University has just received complete sets of three old journals on chemistry, which together form the only complete set of these journals that city, and probably the only one in existence, for there are only a few sets in existence at present. Besides their great value to students in looking up all the facts known about any chemical question, these books afford an admirable opportunity for the study of historical chemistry—a branch of the science which needs development in this country.

Overwork in schools is not confined to this country; there are serious complaints of it in England. A gentleman wrote a letter a few days ago to *The Liverpool Mercury*, in which he criticised severely the schools of Liverpool for over-teaching. The day's study, he says, begins at 7:45 a.m., and lasts until 8 p.m. Besides this, the evenings are supposed to be devoted to study at home, and there are no holidays on Saturday. A medical inspector of Bolton has also called attention to the grievances in which the health of the children under his care have suffered through over-work. He quotes the case of a bright boy who was pushed on in his studies until he broke down under the strain, and who, as seen so far as he is concerned, will now make no extra efforts to make up for lost time. It is to be feared that the public schools of this country also could furnish many instances of such brutal ignorance.

The Board of Education of Cleveland have in consideration a measure to discontinue the services of women as principals of public schools. *The Cleveland Leader* does not believe that there is any good reason for such a step. "No fact," it says, "has been more completely established in this age of common schools than that ladies make competent and successful teachers. They give their undivided attention to their duties, and though now and then one of them holds a position only temporarily, while waiting for 'the coming man,' the great majority of those who hold the position of principal make the profession a life business. But men, to whom the various avenues of occupation are open, follow the pursuit of teaching, as a rule, until they can get something more lucrative. Many men would meddle with politics and attempt to run their wards and districts, and would be anxious to secure positions in the public schools for their sons. Their wives, however, are not to be moved, and are likely to see it grow up in Cleveland is to remove the ladies and put third-rate men in their places."

Miss Pingree, the superintendent of the Boston free kindergartens, has written a letter for *The Kindergarten Messenger* which is an interesting review of what the Boston kindergartens have accomplished. There are at present thirty-one free kindergartens for poor children in and near Boston, carried on by the private charity of one lady. Four of these kindergartens began their work in 1877, during 1878 and 1879 fourteen others were started, and in 1880 the remaining thirteen. Nineteen of these occupy school-rooms or halls, the use and care of which are kindly given by the city or town where they are placed; the remainder are in houses where day nursery work is also carried on, or in suitable rooms hired for the purpose. "The interest," Miss Pingree says, "manifested in the children and families does much to encourage the parents to do something for the children, and to make them feel more responsible for them. The kindergartens have made the mothers by the patient and gentle touch of the teacher a deep one, I have frequently overheard the women speak of it to each other when at the children's festivals or at the kindergartens. Not long ago I heard a woman say, 'How patient these teachers are, and they never say more. I don't think it's good for children.' Another woman told her child, who said, when she struck her: 'God did not give you those hands to strike me with. He gave them to do nice and kind things; my teacher said so.'

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